3rd August 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" An extent of 18·58 acres has been assigned to Harijans. The assignees are cultivating the lands."

Irrigation channels

* 1894 *Q.*—SRI G. VAGHEESAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of channels having an ayacut of over 1,000 acres serving three villages and more in Chidambaram taluk;

(*b*) how many of them are under the control of (i) the Revenue Department and (ii) the Public Works Department;

(*c*) whether similar channels in Tanjore district are under the control of the Public Works Department only;

(*d*) whether any representations have been made in the District Irrigation Conferences (South Arcot district) for taking up these channels under the exclusive control of the Public Works Department; and

(*e*) the action taken by the Government on such representations?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Forty-two.

" (*b*) (i) Thirty.

(ii) Twelve.

" (*c*) No.

" (*d*) Yes.

" (*e*) The Government have carefully considered the representations and have come to the conclusion that it is not possible to comply with the suggestion to transfer all the channels in Chidambaram taluk having an ayacut of 1,000 acres and more and serving two or more villages from the control of the Revenue Department to that of the Public Works Department. The Hon. Member has also been informed of the position in this Government letter No. 89454-N/54-3, Public Works, dated 20th May 1955."

SRI G. VAGHEESAM PILLAI :—" Sir, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Public Works Department will take up channels having an ayacut of at least 2,000 acres and above, as they are not maintained well? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The Government have considered the question. Of course, the Public Works Department do desilting, but taking over those channels will not be feasible. That is the recommendation of the Board of Revenue. The Chief Engineer has recommended against it, as it will cost the Government a lot of expenditure to employ lascars and irrigation gumasthas, etc., in that connexion."